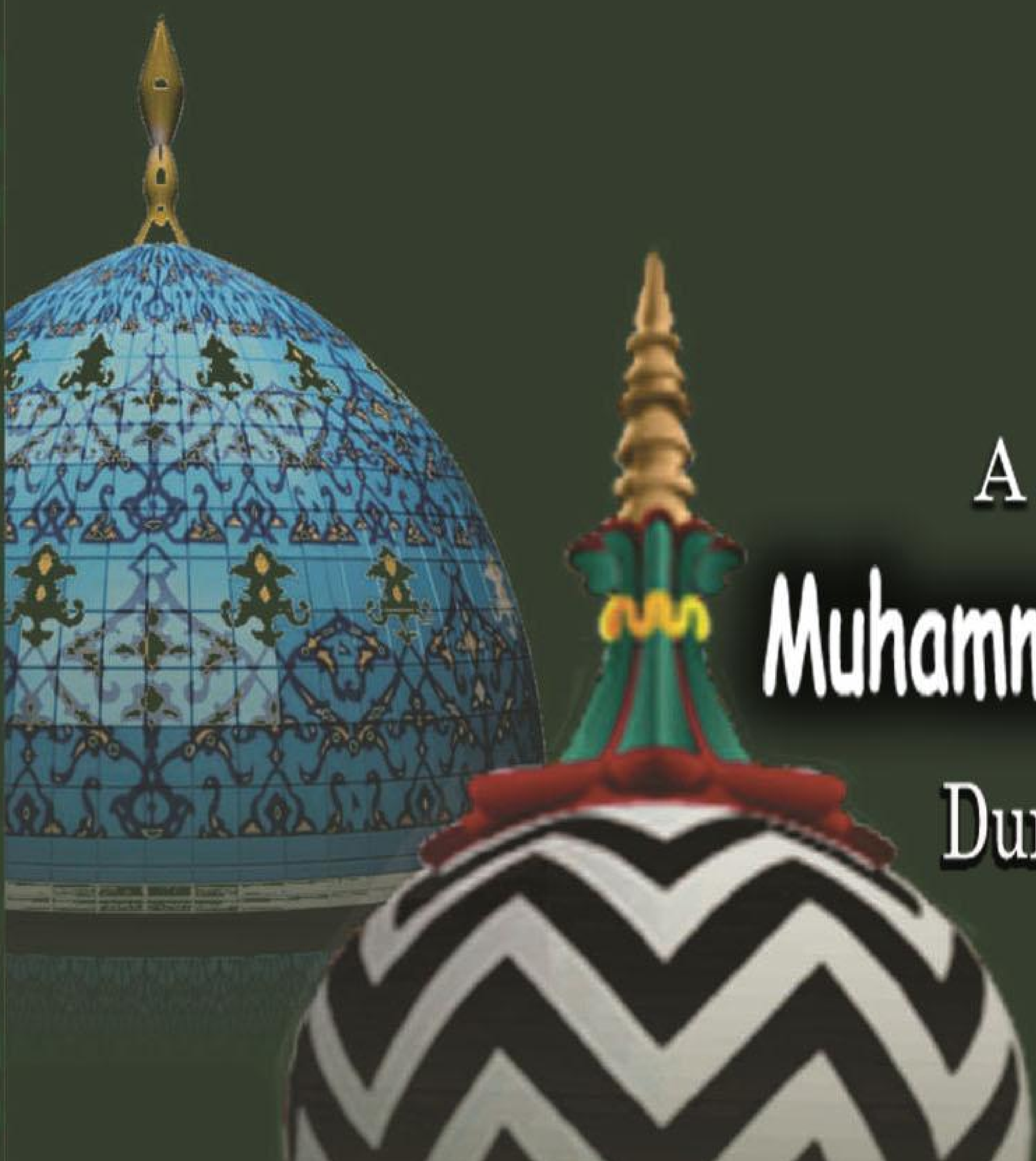
LAHORE RESOLUTION 1940



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LAHORE RESOLUTION 1940

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INTRODUCTION:

The **Lahore Resolution** was a formal political statement adopted by **All India Muslim League** on the occasion of its three-day general session in Lahore on March 22-24, 1940. This resolution is regarded as a landmark in the history of Indian Muslims as they adopted the idea of partition as their final goal through this resolution. It was basically a change of strategy. In the past the talk was for federalism, provincial autonomy, constitutional safeguards and guarantees. Here in **Lahore Resolution** Muslim League officially talked about the partition of India.

PAST RESEARCH:

The historians discussed the contents of the **Lahore Resolution** in detail and told that the word **"PAKISTAN"** was not part of it. Moreover, none of the speakers of the session used this word in his / her speech. But at the stage there was a great leader who used this word as a slogan when the **Lahore Resolution** was passed. I am going to point out his historic role in the independence movement in this research paper.

BACKGROUND OF THE LAHORE RESOLUTION:

1. With the introduction of political reforms in India by the British, the Muslims realized that they would become a permanent minority in a democratic system and it would never be possible for them to protect their fundamental rights.
2. In the beginning, **Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah** and other leaders of Muslim league were in the favor of united India and worked a lot for Hindu-Muslim unity. But with the experience of sidelining of Muslims by the **Indian National Congress** during congress rule, they came to the conclusion that Muslims can not safeguard their rights in united India.

Due to the above mentioned reasons the Leaders of Muslim League started thinking about partition of the country and they officially adopted this idea through **Lahore Resolution.**

HISTORY OF THE IDEA OF A SEPARATE MUSLIM HOMELAND IN SUBCONTINENT:

The idea of separate Muslim state/states in the subcontinent was presented by a number of public figures much before the **Lahore Resolution**. The first person who presented this idea with full details of the areas to be included in the Muslim state was **Muhammad Abdul Qadeer Badayuni.**(1) His scheme was first published in March-April 1920 issue of **Zulqarnain** Badayun and it was not too different from the boundaries of East and West Pakistan.(2) Its second edition was published from **Nizami Press** Badayun and in December 1925 it was published by the **Muslim University Aligarh Press** having title **"An Open Letter to**

Mahatma Gandhi on Hindu-Muslim Unity".(3) Raees Ahmed Jafri included this whole booklet in his book **Auraq-e-Gum Gashta.**(4) Its next edition was published by **Pakistan Historical Society Karachi** in 1970.

The Poet of the East **Dr. Muhammad Iqbal** propounded the idea of separate Muslim State in his presidential address to the annual session of **All India Muslim League** in Allahabad in 1930. Although he was not the first one to present the idea of the partition of subcontinent, he is still called **Musawwir-e-Pakistan. Dr. Khursheed Kamal Aziz**, a well known Pakistani Historian, criticized to call Dr. Iqbal the originator of the idea of Pakistan and said that it is one of the myths of Pakistani nationalism to saddle Iqbal with the parentage of Pakistan.(5)

According to **Prof. Dr. Masood Ahmed**, it seems that Dr. Iqbal has taken this idea from **Maulana Abdul Qadeer Badayuni** because both were close friends.(6) Maulana Badayuni's letter to Gandhi was about Hindu-Muslim relations and especially it dealt with the issue of the sacrifice of cow. The idea of separate Muslim State was not the main topic of the letter, it was just an implication at the last three / four pages of the letter. Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal propounded it at a political forum; a session of **All India Muslim League**, the founding party of Pakistan. Due to this reason, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal is commonly known as **Musawwir-e-Pakistan,** as elaborated by the renowned historian Dr. I. H. Qureshi. He elucidated beautifully the reason to call Dr. Iqbal **Musawwir-e-Pakistan** as follows: "Sir Muhammad Iqbal is generally credited with initiating the idea of separation. As has been mentioned, there were people before him who advocated partition, but Iqbal was the first important public figure to propound the idea from the **platform of the Muslim League.**"(7)

The other important personalities who presented their partition schemes include:

- Chaudhary Rehmat Ali,
- Kheiri Brothers (Dr. Abdul Jabbar Kheiri & Prof. Abdus Sattar Kheri),
- Sardar Muhammad Gul Khan,
- Maulana Hasrat Mohani,
- Dr. Abdul Latif,
- Agha Khan III,
- Sir Abdullah Haroon,
- Maulana Murtaza Ahmed Khan Maikash,
- Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, and
- Mujahid-e-Millat Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, etc.

Anyway, the ideas of Muslim separation had been floating in the political atmosphere of subcontinent, Muslim League came forward to give this idea a concrete shape. This is what the **All India Muslim League** did at Lahore in 1940 in its 27th annual session.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION:

The session was held at **Minto Park** (now known as **Iqbal Park**) Lahore from March 22 to March 24, 1940. This was the first annual session of **All India Muslim League** in Lahore. **Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah** delivered his historic speech on the importance of **Two-Nation Theory** on March 22 after Friday prayer. On March 23, the historic **Lahore Resolution** was moved by **Sher-e-Bengal Maulvi A. K. Fazlul Haq,** the then Chief Minister of Bengal.

The resolution was seconded by the following leaders:

1. Chaudhary Khaliquz Zaman (U.P.)
2. Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (Punjab)

3. Sardar Aurangzeb Khan (N.W.F.P.)
4. Sir Abdullah Haroon (Sindh)
5. Qazi Muhammad Esa (Baluchistan)
6. Abdul Hameed Khan (Madras)
7. Ibrahim Ismail Chundrigar (Bombay)
8. Dr. Muhammad Alam (Punjab)
9. Nawwab Ismail Khan (Bihar)
10. Syed Abdur Rauf Shah (C.P.)
11. Syed Zakir Ali (U.P.)
12. Mrs. Muhammad Ali Jauhar (U.P.)
13. Maulana Abdul Hamid Badayuni (U.P.)

Those who seconded the resolution, in their speeches declared the occasion as a historic one. The resolution was passed on March 24, 1940.

IMPORTANCE OF THE VENUE:

There were two main reasons of selection of Minto Park as the venue for this historical session:

1. This place was at a height as compared to its surroundings.
2. Nearness of Badshahi Masjid and Shahi Qilah. (A symbol of Muslim Rule in India)

JINNAH'S HISTORIC SPEECH:

On the first day of session, **Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah** delivered his historic speech. He said:

"The Hindus and Muslims belong to two different religious philosophies, social customs, and literatures. They neither inter-marry nor inter-dine together and, indeed, they belong to two different civilizations which are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions. Their concepts on life and of life are different. It is quite clear that Hindus and Mussalmans derive their inspiration from different sources of history. They have different epics, different heroes and different episodes. Very often the hero of one is a foe of the other and, likewise, their victories and defeats overlap. To yoke together two such nations under a single state, one as a numerical minority and the other as a majority, must lead to growing discontent and final destruction of any fabric that may be so built up for the government of such a state."

He further said:

"Musalmans are a nation according to any definition of nation, and they must have their homelands, their territory and their state. We wish to live in peace and harmony with our neighbours as a free and independent people. We wish our people to develop to the fullest our spiritual, cultural, economic, social and political life in a way that we think best and in consonance with our own ideals and according to the genius of our people."(8)

THE STATEMENT OF LAHORE RESOLUTION:

The resolution consisted of the following five paragraphs:

1. This session of the All India Muslim League emphatically reiterates that the scheme of federation embodied in the Government of India Act 1935 is totally unsuited to, and unworkable in the peculiar conditions of this country and is altogether unacceptable to Muslim India.
2. Muslim India will not be satisfied unless the whole constitutional plan is reconsidered *de novo* and that no revised plan would be acceptable to the Muslims unless it is framed with their approval and consent.
3. No constitutional plan would be workable in this country or acceptable to Muslims unless it is designed on the following basic principle, viz., that geographically contiguous units are demarcated into regions which should be so constituted, with such territorial readjustments as may be necessary, that the areas in which the Muslims are numerically in majority as in the north-western and eastern zones of India should be grouped to constitute 'independent states' in which the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign.
4. Adequate, effective and mandatory safeguards should be specifically provided in the constitution for minorities in these units and in these regions for the protection of their religious, cultural, economic, political, administrative and other rights and interests in consultation with them and in other parts of India where Musalmans are in a minority adequate, effective and mandatory safeguards shall be specifically provided in the constitution for them and other minorities

for the protection of their religious, cultural, economic, political, administrative and other rights and interests in consultation with them.

5. This session further authorizes the working committee to frame a scheme of constitution in accordance with these basic principles, providing for the assumption finally by the respective regions of all powers such as defense, external affairs, communications, customs and such other matters as may be necessary.(9)

USE OF THE WORD "PAKISTAN":

The word **PAKISTAN** was not used in the resolution. Moreover none of the speakers of the session used this word at the occasion. The person who had the historical honour of using this word in the historical session at the time of passing of the resolution was **Mujahid-e-Millat Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi.**(10) Eminent educationalist **Prof. Saif ullah Khalid** (Islamia College Civil Lines Lahore) writes:

> "Think about the eagle sight and revolutionary programme of **Maulana Niazi**; at the time when the elders of Muslim League were moving **Lahore Resolution** without using the name **PAKISTAN,** he was organizing **Khilafat-e-Pakistan Conference**. This credit went to Maulana that at the time of passing of **Lahore Resolution** he raised the slogan "**Pakistan Zinda Baad**" with full voice in front of one hundred and fifty thousand people. Although the mission of all speakers of this session was to make Pakistan, but none of them used this word." {Translated from Urdu} (11)

REACTION OF HINDUS ON LAHORE RESOLUTION:

The Hindu reaction was quick, bitter and malicious. They declared the demands of Muslims as "anti-national". They said that **Lahore Resolution** is obscure, obnoxious, illogical and against the unification of dwellers of subcontinent. Moreover they declared it as vivisection of India.

The official name of the resolution was **Lahore Resolution**. It was the Hindu press (Partap, Bande Matram, Milap, Tribune, etc.) who ironically coined the name **Pakistan Resolution**. However, the idea was appreciated by the Muslim Masses and they, also, started calling it **Pakistan Resolution.**

REACTION OF BRITISH ON LAHORE RESOLUTION:

The British did not give any importance to the resolution. Only one or two papers published a summary of it. The **Manchester Guardian** was furious and accused **Jinnah** of "re-establishing the reign of chaos in Indian politics".(12)

INCLUSION OF LAHORE RESOLUTION IN THE CONSTITUTION OF MUSLIM LEAGUE:

In April 1941, **All India Muslim League** held its annual session in Madras. An amendment in the **All India Muslim League** constitution making **Lahore Resolution** as the objective of the **All India Muslim League** was unanimously passed on April 15.

MUSLIM LEAGUE'S TURN TO "ONE ISLAMIC STATE" DEMAND:

The **Lahore resolution** contained the word "states". It means that the authors of the resolution were foreseeing two separate states in the north-western and eastern zones of India. But by looking at the developments that followed, we can conclude that either the word "states" was included as a mistake(13) or the League leadership soon had a second thought to their idea. They started talking of one state and finally, in April 1946 **Jinnah** called at Delhi a convention of elected assembly members of League. In this session, **H. S. Suharwardy** moved the main resolution that demanded "a sovereign independent state, comprising Bengal and Assam in the north-east zone and the Punjab, the N. W. F. P., the Sindh and Baluchistan in the north-west zone".(14) This resolution made a fundamental departure from the original **Lahore Resolution** in using the word 'state' in the singular replacing the term 'states'.

IMPORTANCE OF LAHORE RESOLUTION:

1. Having passed the **Lahore Resolution**, the Indian Muslims changed their ultimate goal. Instead of seeking alliance with the Hindu community they set out on a path whose destination was a separate homeland.
2. It provided flesh to the naked bones and injected fresh blood into the hitherto dead arteries of the politics of Indian Muslim body.
3. This resolution gave a new spirit to Indian Muslims as a separate nation.

4. It played the role of backbone in the Pakistan movement.
5. It promoted unity among Indian Muslims.
6. Muslim League was admitted as a sole representative of Indian Muslims.

COMMEMORATION OF LAHORE RESOLUTION:

1. To commemorate the historic resolution, a 62 meters tall monument was built in **Iqbal Park.** It is called **Minar-e-Pakistan.**
2. March 23 is celebrated in Pakistan as **"Pakistan Day"** to commemorate the Lahore Resolution. (15) It is a public holiday.

CONCLUSION:

The **Lahore Resolution** did not specify any demarcation of the territory but it defined the future plan of struggle for the establishment of a Muslim state. It changed the course of Indian history. Idea of united India was finally rejected and the Muslims started struggle to get an independent homeland. Under the dynamic leadership of **Quaid-e-Azam** they achieved their goal in just seven years.

NOTES & REFERANCES:

(1) Maulana Shah Abdul Qadeer Badayuni (1893-1946) was a great Islamic scholar, Mufti, spiritual leader and politician of Ahle Sunnat. He participated in different movements against British. He has the honour of leading Friday Prayer in Masjid-e-Aqsa (Bait ul Muqaddas) Palestine. (Qadri, Mahmood Ahmed ***Tazkira Ulama e Ahle Sunnat***, Faisalabad, Sunni Darul Isha'at: 1992, p. 150-151)

(2) Qureshi, I.H. ***Struggle for Pakistan*** (University of Karachi: 1987), p. 116.

(3) Masood Ahmed, Prof. Dr. ***Tehreek e Aazadi e Hind aur As-Sawad ul Azam*** (Lahore, Zia ul Quran Publications: 2002), p. 160.

(4) Jafri, Raees Ahmed ***Auraq-e-Gum Gashta***, (Lahore: 1968) p. 351-390.

(5) Aziz, K. K. ***The Making of Pakistan*** (Lahore, Sang-e-Meel Publications: 2002), p. 54.

(6) Masood Ahmed, Prof. Dr. ***Tasawwur-e-Pakistan – Aik Tahqeeqi Jaiza***, (Lahore, Idara Mazhar-e-Islam: 2004), p. 21 & 41. According to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Masood Ahmed, Maulana Abdul Qadeer Badayuni had very good relations with Dr. Muhammad Iqbal. He used to stay at Iqbal's house whenever he visited Lahore. He named his son "Abdul Majeed Muhammad Iqbal" on the suggestion of Iqbal.

(7) Qureshi, I.H. ***Struggle for Pakistan*** (University of Karachi: 1987), p. 117.

(8) Qureshi, I.H. ***Struggle for Pakistan*** (University of Karachi:1987), p. 326-327.

(9) Qureshi, I.H. ***Struggle for Pakistan*** (University of Karachi:1987), p. 324-325.

(10) **Mujahid-e-Millat Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi** (1915-2001) was one of the founders of **Punjab Muslim Students Federation** and a great freedom fighter. **Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's** compliment is very important to understand his struggle for freedom movement. An eye-witness **Ch. Habib Ahmed** (Historian, journalist & a freedom fighter) describes that Quaid said (at the stage of **Pakistan Conference** held in Islamia College Lahore during February 28 – March 1, 1941) that: "The nation which has such conscientious and fortitudinous person as Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, no one can ~~dare to cease his~~ stop the formation of its Pakistan ~~from its formation~~." {Translated from Urdu} (Qasoori, Muhammad Sadiq ***Tehreek-e-Pakistan Aur Ulama-e-Kiram***, Lahore, Maktaba Zawia: 1999, p. 464) Tehreek-e-Pakistan Gold medal was conferred on him in August 1987. Pakistan Postal Services Corporation issued (on August 14, 2003) a 2-rupee ticket as a tribute to his great struggle for independence.

(11) Qasoori, Muhammad Sadiq ***Nazr-e-Mujahid-e-Millat*** (Lahore, Zawia Publishers: 2004), p. 125.

(12) Qureshi, I.H. ***Struggle for Pakistan*** (University of Karachi: 1987), p. 130.

(13) Dr. Safdar Mahmood states that according to Ch. Khaliquz Zaman and Mr. Asfahani it was a typing mistake. *(www.akhbar.urdupoint.com)*

(14) Qureshi, I.H. ***Struggle for Pakistan*** (University of Karachi:1987), p. 242.

(15) In spite of the fact that the actual day to be celebrated is March 24; the day on which the resolution was passed.



- Stay tuned to benefit from the speeches of Mujahid e Ahl e Sunnat Allama Qari Muhammad Yasin Chohan (May Allah have mercy on him) & Other scholars of Ahlus Sunnah & to listen Na'ts of non-professional Na't recitors:

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- To get acquainted with the teachings of the right path of Ahlus Sunnah wal Jama'ah, read the books of our great scholars at the following link:

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